



EUROPEAN POLICY AND THE RIGHT TO WATER

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CONTENT

- EU Water policies and developments
- Corporate policies and trends
- Public –Public Partnerships
- Campaigning for water and sanitation as a human right and public good: European Citizens' Initiative
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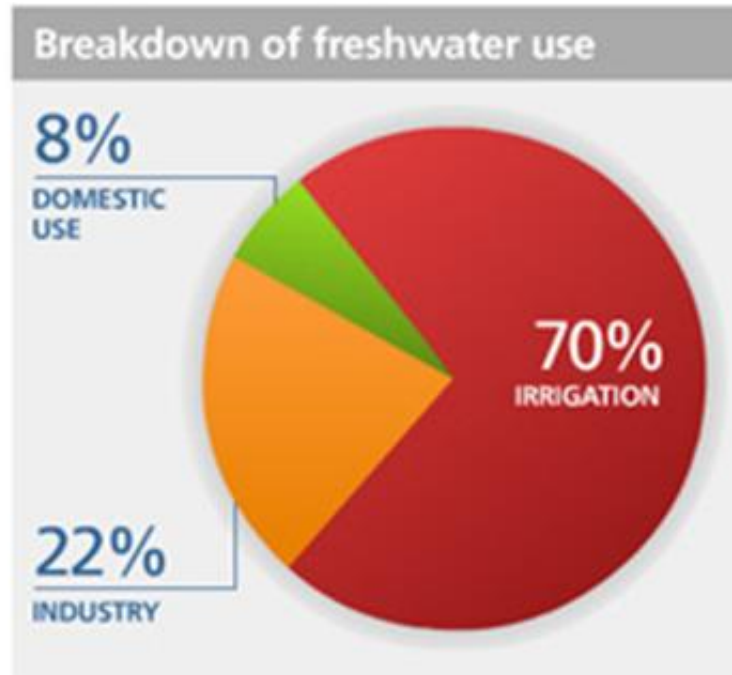


EU WATER POLICY AND DEVELOPMENTS

Water Scarcity ?

Increasing
demand!

From:



EU WATER POLICY AND DEVELOPMENTS



Single Market Act

- Development of market in services
- Increase competition
- SGI or SGEI?

Public procurement and concessions

- “Single market is not completed”
- Water services open for procurement and concessions



EU WATER POLICY AND DEVELOPMENTS



The PPP lobby

- free market for goods and services
- access for all companies (government may set no restrictions)

Myths about public water

- Public water companies are inefficient
- Public water is too expensive
- People want to choose



EU WATER POLICY AND DEVELOPMENTS



- PPP is privatisation in disguise
- Partnerships are only possible if based on equality of partners
- Public services should not be allowed to take profits out of the service



WATER POLICY



Dutch water law example:

- Water grid is **public property** and has to remain in government hands
- Private companies are **not allowed to produce or deliver** piped water
- Shares in public water companies may not be sold to private parties
- Water companies are obliged to deliver water to households
- Only water companies can take over (parts of) water companies
- Tariffs have to be fair, transparent en non-discriminatory



CORPORATE WATER POLICY AND DEVELOPMENTS



Ownership concentration increases

Suez and Veolia increasingly depend on state capital

- EU and government's support for PPPs

Significant reversals of privatisation: Paris, Pecs

- European water industry remains largely public

Public resistance to privatisation: Italy, Berlin, Greece, Spain

PSIRU publication: conflicts, companies, human rights and water



WATER DEVELOPMENTS CONCLUSIONS



Companies consolidate

- Existing contracts, + BOTs, +contracting

Water resources new focus of MNC activity

- Mckinsey report for Coca-Cola, Nestle etc:
- “market” in water rights, minimal abstraction charge
- Buying land for water rights; buying glaciers

Campaigns and politics matter:

- UN right to water, but no EU right to water!



PUBLIC – PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS



EU Water Facility

40 million Euros for WOPs (PUPs) between EU and African water utilities or public authorities

- Must be led by public authority, must be not for profit
- Result of campaigns by RPW/PSI, follows poor response from private sector to previous EU funding



PUBLIC – PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS



- Answer to failing PPP's is Public–Public Partnerships' (PUP)
- Compromise in UN as Water Operator Partnership (WOP)



PUBLIC – PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS



Features

- Knowledge and expertise is within workers
- Co-operation instead of competition
- Not-for-profit
- Quality public service and water and sanitation for all
- Platform for public-community partnerships in the Americas
- **Food and Water Watch Europe publication:** Public-public partnerships: strengthening public water and implementing the human right to water



EPSU EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE

Can we do it?



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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